Alberta Finance
Economic Bulletin

ECONOMIC STATISTICS RELEASED DURING THE WEEK OF APRIL 1, 2002 TO APRIL 5, 2002

	Reference Period	Month/Previous Month (m/m)	Month/Previous Year's Month (y/y)	Comments
Canadian Help-Wanted Index (1996 = 100)	March			The Canadian help-wanted index rose 1.6% in March, the first increase in 18 months. Increases in New Brunswick (3.3%), Prince Edward Island (2.8%), Ontario (2.3%), and Nova Scotia (0.8%) were partially offset by decreases across the prairie provinces. The national index is down 25.0% from March 2001, while the Alberta index is down 22.2%.
Alberta	137	-0.7%	-22.2%	
Canada	126	1.6%	-25.0%	
Average Weekly Earnings ($)	January			Average weekly earnings in Canada rose 0.1% in January to $671.78, virtually unchanged from December and up 1.7% from January 2001. For Alberta, average weekly earnings rose 0.3% to $694.56 in January, an increase of 2.8% over January 2001.
Alberta	694.56	0.3%	2.8%	
Canada	671.78	0.1%	1.7%	
Farm Product Price Index (1997 = 100)	January			The prices received by farmers for their products rose 2.9% in January from December and are up 5.2% over January 2001. The crop sub-index rose 2.0% from December to January, led by advances in the indexes for specialty crops (7.5%), potatoes (5.4%), and grains (2.9%). On a year-over-year basis, the specialty crop index is up 54.4% and the potato index is up 51.0%. The livestock and animal products sub-index rose 4.3% in January, up 2.7% over January 2001. Hog prices rose 9.8%, while cattle and calves rose 4.7% in January.
	101.3	2.9%	5.2%	